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*Funerary Objects from Tomb of the Architect Im-They, Giza
Old Empire Room*

VI. Dynasty

New Egyptian Galleries

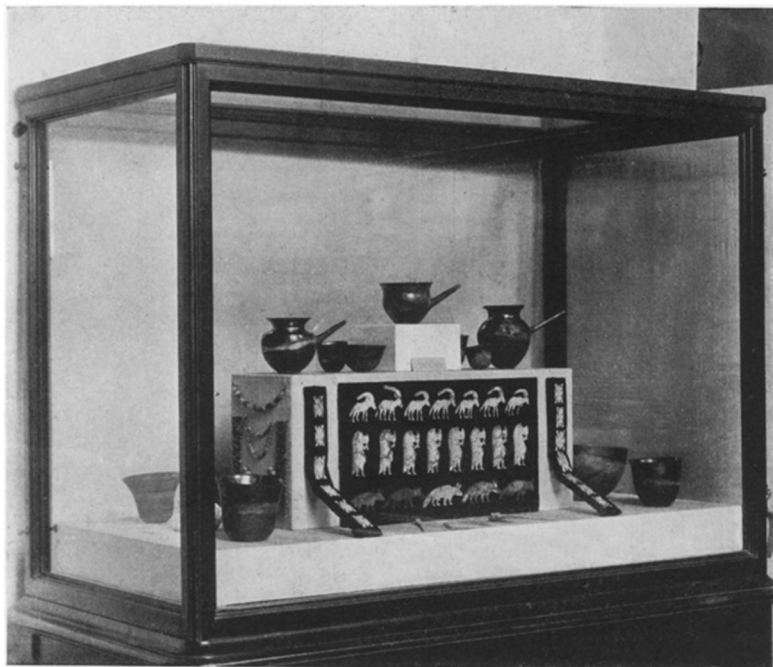
AS a result of the completion of the Robert Dawson Evans Galleries for Paintings, the Egyptian Department has acquired two additional rooms for the exhibition of its rapidly growing collection. These new rooms were the Second and Third Modern Rooms in the former picture galleries, and are at the beginning of the Egyptian series across the corridor from the Mastaba Gallery. They take their place with the others in a regular chronological sequence. The recent excavations of the Harvard Museum expedition in Egypt have revealed much material of the earlier periods, and additional exhibition space at this end of our series has been a growing necessity.

The new corner room has been reserved for objects from the earliest Predynastic period down to the end of the Third Dynasty, and will be known as the Primitive Egyptian Room. In this room examples of pottery have been arranged in wall cases according to periods; the white-line decorated ware, the earliest, in one case; the later red-line ware in another; and in a third the black-topped polished ware which was contemporaneous with both the other kinds and extended down into the Early Dynastic period. A fourth case contains stone vessels from all these periods. In the centre of the room are two cases, one containing jewelry and objects of personal adornment, toys, and flint weapons of the early periods; and the other, smaller

stone vessels, slate palettes, with stone weapons. Against the wall is a fine example of an Early Dynastic cylindrical alabaster vase.

The next room will be called the Old Empire Room, and forms an extension of the Mastaba Gallery adjoining it. Here in one wall case are smaller pieces of sculpture of this period and, opposite, a case containing selections from the unique funeral outfit of the architect, Im-they, whose tomb was described in the November Bulletin. These consist of copper models of furniture and dishes, a set of magical vessels in quartz and slate, and his exquisite necklace of gold and faience. In a separate case is the wooden figure of Mehy, another member of this family of royal architects of the Fifth and Sixth Dynasties. This is one of the finest examples of Egyptian carving in existence and ranks with the celebrated "Sheikh el-Beled" in the Cairo Museum. Other cases contain a seated figure of Nekhebew, another member of this same family, and a small statue of Prince Khu-en-ra seated as a scribe. On the walls are several reliefs from the tombs of the different members of the family of architects. All these objects were excavated at Giza.

Along the west side of the Mastaba Gallery has been erected the sculptured wall of the outer offering chamber of the mastaba of Meryt-aket-nesut, a Superintendent of the Royal Gardens early in the Fifth Dynasty. Some of the figures are life size, one representing the owner leaning on his staff in



Pottery, Ivory Inlays, and Jewelry of the Hyksos Period
New Empire Room

Kerma, ca. 1650 B. C.

an attitude unusual in Egyptian reliefs, and another showing him about to cast a lasso. At one extremity of this wall is a portion of the end of the chamber with a doorway which led into the inner offering room. The door is surrounded with an inscription giving the name and titles of the owner, and inside the jambs are beautiful reliefs of the owner with his wife and mother. In front of this wall in a case is a seated limestone figure of the owner, which was found in place on the floor of the small inner room, together with an alabaster inlaid offering slab, which is shown in the new Study Room on the first floor.

In the New Empire Room an entire case has been filled with objects from the rare Hyksos Period, ca. 1650 B. C. Here are specimens of pottery resembling in appearance the blacktop ware of the earliest period, but of far more graceful shape and of an exquisite texture and lightness of fabric unequalled in any other Egyptian period. Below them is a complete set of ivory inlays placed exactly as they were found in the back and arms of a chair, the wood of which was too badly decomposed to be moved. Across the back are three rows of animals: the top row, gazelles; the middle row, the hippo deity, Taoris, and the lower, hyenas. The arms were inlaid with conventional figures, probably representing frogs. There is a group of bronze knives and a pair of razor blades, almost identical in shape with those in use to-day. At the end of the case are several necklaces of glazed quartzite, and a pair of bead-work bracelets.

On the wall of the Loggia has been placed a

case containing necklaces from the Middle and New Empires. These contain amethysts, carnelian, and various other semi-precious stones, as well as gold beads. There are also gold bracelets, earrings, and amulets of unusual shapes.

C. S. F.



Statuette of Prince Khu-en-ra, Giza IV. Dynasty